

REMARKS

Claims 6-14 are pending. Claims 1-5 were previously canceled. No claims have been withdrawn from consideration, canceled, amended or added by this response.

Claims 6, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,875,971 (Morck). Claims 7 – 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While the indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated, Applicants believe that claims 6, 13 and 14 are patentable over Morck. Accordingly, these rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration of the application is requested.

Among other things, Applicants' claims require "connector means connecting an outlet from the reservoir to the inlet of the spray gun ... wherein the connector means comprises at least one resilient clip on one of the reservoir and spray gun engageable with an abutment on the other of the reservoir and spray gun."

According to the Patent Office:

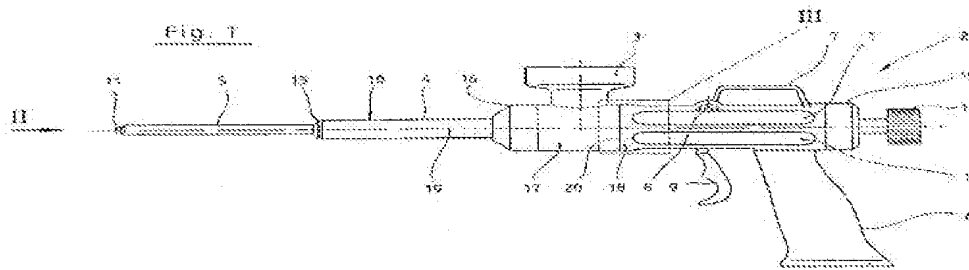
Morck discloses a fluid spraying apparatus comprising a spray gun having an inlet, a reservoir for a fluid to be sprayed (column 3, line 40), a connector means 30 connecting an outlet from the reservoir to the inlet of the spray gun in use wherein the connector means comprises at least one resilient clip 33 on one of the reservoir and spray gun engageable with an abutment on the other of the reservoir and spray gun ... wherein the resilient clip comprises a spring leg ... and the abutment comprises a ledge ... such that the spring leg engages behind the ledge at 32.¹

Thus, "stop spring 33" and "snap-in notches 32" in Morck have been equated with, respectively, Applicants' claimed "resilient clip" and "abutment."

Morck describes "a spray gun [that] is suitable for discharging plastic sealing foams, for example, polyurethane foams."² Referring in part to FIG. 1, reproduced below, Morck

¹ See paragraph 3 of the Office action.

² Column 1, lines 10-11.



provides the following description:

On dividing line 20 housing 2 is divided into housing part 17 with connecting part 3 and housing part 18 with handle part 6. Housing part 17 bearing connecting part 3 for the pressure can for the medium is adapted to be rotated around axis 19 of nozzle needle 12 relative to housing part 18 bearing handle part 6.³

Snap-in system 30 is disposed between housing part 17 bearing connecting part 3 and housing part 18 bearing handle part 6. Axially acting snap-in element 31 is present on housing part 18 bearing handle part 6 and cooperates with snap-in notches 32 provided on housing part 17 bearing handle part 3.

According to FIG. 3, snap-in element 31 consists of at least one stop spring 33 injection molded on housing part 18 bearing handle part 6.⁴

In Morck, both "stop spring 33" and "snap-in notches 32" are on the spray gun; neither element is on the reservoir. Since Applicants' claims require that one of the resilient clip and the abutment be on the spray gun and the other be on the reservoir, Morck does not disclose Applicants' claimed arrangement of these elements. Nor would it have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Morck in this manner.

³ See Column 3, lines 56-61.

⁴ See Column 4, lines 20-28.

At the conclusion of the interview and as reflected in the "Interview Summary" the Examiner indicated that "the examiner understands and agrees with the differences."

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 6, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morck has been overcome and that the finality of the rejection should be withdrawn. Believing that the application is now in condition for allowance, examination and reconsideration of the same is requested. If the Examiner has any continuing questions or concerns regarding the application, he is encouraged to directly contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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